Recruitment scandal in Kapurthala Rail Coach Factory

1897. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the daily 'Punjabi Tribune', Chandigarh, regarding recruitment scandal in Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A news report appeared in the daily 'Punjabi Tribune', Chandigarh on 1.6.2002. This does not refer to any recruitment scandal but alleges improper selection of trainees for imparting training under Apprentices Act, 1961 in Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala in Punjab. The news report primarily alleges nepotism in selection of trainees in favour of candidates belonging to Bihar by neglecting candidates from Punjab in violation of the provisions of Apprentices Act, 1961.

(c) When the matter came to the notice of Railway administration, a departmental committee has been formed to review the procedure of selection of trainees of Act Apprentices, In the meantime, selection for the current year 2002 has been kept in abeyance.

Over-aged rail signalling cabines

1898. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total number of signalling cabins which are existing at present and how many out of them are over-aged and have been replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA):

* There are 5692 interlocked stations on the Railways. Each of these stations normally has one or more cabins depending upon the size of station and type of signalling system provided thereon.